

Policy Statement

Climate Change

Securing Our Children's future

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Candidate for the

Wentworth By-Election 2018

Overview

Climate Change is real. The scientific consensus is in. We must act as a nation to do our part to help reduce the impact of climate change.

The LNP Federal Government is dominated by climate sceptics. Those who are not sceptics are weak and do not stand up for taking action on climate change. Any Liberal candidate in any seat in the country can only follow party lines.

Our previous member for Wentworth, Malcolm Turnbull, used to believe in climate change. Mr Turnbull said in 2009 of the Tony Abbott led Liberal Party:

“The Liberal Party is currently led by people whose conviction on climate change is that it is “crap” and you don’t need to do anything about it. Any policy that is announced will simply be a con, an environmental fig leaf to cover a determination to do nothing.”

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2009/s2763922.htm>

Now nine years later, despite Malcolm Turnbull having been and gone as Prime Minister, absolutely nothing has changed. The Government has abandoned long-term renewable energy targets and openly questions whether we should pull out of our international commitments to reduce carbon emissions.

The Wentworth by-election comes at a unique time in the political cycle. If you believe that climate change is real and we have an obligation to do something about it, you can send that message on October 20 loud and clear to the Liberal Party and the nation.

My six-point plan to tackle climate change:

- Transition to 100% renewable energy, 50% by 2030;
- Restore a credible scientific-based Climate Change Authority;
- No new coal fired power plants – I will oppose the Federal Government spending your money on new coal fired power generation;
- Stop government subsidies of new and existing fossil fuel developments, including the proposed Adani coal mine and provide subsidies for investment in renewable energy sources;
- Meet or exceed our commitments under the Paris International Climate Agreement; and
- Ban political donations by fossil fuel companies and establish a register to force all Senators and Members to disclose meetings with fossil fuel companies and their lobbyists.

Transition to 100% renewable energy, 50% by 2030.

Aim for net zero emissions by 2050

Restore a credible scientific based Climate Change Authority

To secure our environment for the future Australia must eventually source all our energy requirements from renewable sources.

This is a big transition and one that will require Australia coming together around an agreed plan. I will be guided by experts on the timing and pace that Australia can responsibly transition to 100% renewables.

I want the experts on climate and energy to develop this plan and advise us on the most efficient way to achieve it.

Therefore, I support restoring the Climate Change Authority (CCA) as the policy driver for our decisions on climate change.

I believe the original CCA recommendation that Australia's reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40-60% on 2000 levels by 2030 must be the basis for a new credible target on emission reductions.

The actions outlined by the Climate Action Network of Australia (CANA) group of organisations is a good starting point. Some actions I support include:

- Introduce policies such as reverse auctions and public investment to make sure the right clean energy infrastructure is built in the right places, particularly “on demand” or “dispatchable” renewables. This includes supporting community-owned and decentralised renewable energy projects and hubs.
- Dedicate financial and business support for renewable energy research, development and deployment, including continuing and expanding the role of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC).
- Empower a national authority, with accompanying policies, to deliver a national energy transition, including a plan for the orderly and predictable closure of coal-fired power generation by 2030 with support for people and communities impacted by closure to transition to jobs with a future.
- Reform energy market rules and institutions to improve energy system stability and drive down power bills with renewable energy and storage technology.

No new coal fired power plants

Coal is old technology that will never be able to become “clean”.

Coal-fired power generation needs to be phased out in orderly way as renewable sources become more affordable and available.

Every dollar of tax payer’s money should be invested in creating the long-term sustainable transition to renewable technologies.

Investing government money in coal-fired powered stations will only create bigger problems for Australia down the road.

Stop government subsidies of fossil fuel developments, including the proposed Adani coal mine.

I believe in a free market for business as the best way to achieve economic objectives.

New renewables (solar and wind) are a cheaper form of electricity generation than new coal fired power plants.

The current lack of certainty is hindering investment.

Government intervening into the market to prop up fossil fuel development is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

I will oppose any government subsidies for the Adani coal mine. This includes government investment in supportive infrastructure such as rail lines.

New gas developments must stand on their own – it is not the job of the Australian Government to subsidize large multinational gas companies.

Meet or exceed our commitments under the Paris International Climate Agreement

Australia's target under the Paris climate agreement is to reduce emissions to 26–28 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030.

Source: <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/c42c11a8-4df7-4d4f-bf92-4f14735c9baa/files/factsheet-australias-2030-climate-change-target.pdf>

This is not ambitious enough.

The Climate Change Authority's original emissions target recommendation— a reduction of at least 40-60% on 2000 levels by 2030 should be the basis for a revised target, following review by independent experts.

Effective action on climate change must involve the world acting together to reduce carbon emissions.

Australia as a leading economy must set an example and achieve our objectives under the Paris Climate Agreement.

I support Australia remaining a signatory to the agreement and meeting our objectives under the agreement.

Tony Abbot and the hard right of the Liberal Party are now openly trying to backflip on Australia's' commitment to the Paris agreement.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/03/tony-abbott-urges-withdrawal-from-paris-agreement-despite-signing-australia-up-as-pm>

On October 20 the voters in Wentworth have the chance to send a strong message to the Liberal Party that they support action to address climate change.

Recently released data shows Australia is not on track to meet our climate commitments. NDEVR Environmental predicts Australia will miss our target by over 1 billion tonnes.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/sep/14/australia-on-track-to-miss-paris-climate-targets-as-emissions-hit-record-highs>

Time is running out for an effective national policy to address climate change. The longer we wait the more expensive and difficult the transition becomes. Australia needs an evidence-based climate policy led by our national government.

Ban political donations by fossil fuel companies and establish a register to force all Senators and Members to disclose meetings with fossil fuel companies and their lobbyists

Fossil fuel companies have too much influence over our major political parties.

I believe Australia's policy on climate change should be developed by independent experts and all dealings with fossil fuel companies by Senators and Members of Parliament should be open and transparent.

I will support the establishment of a register where all members of parliament should register any meetings they have with fossil fuel companies and our decision-making should be free of the corrosive influence of donations from fossil fuel companies.

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